

**Campton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2013; 7:30pm**

Commissioners Present: Jess Halm (this month's chair), Alisoun Hodges, Jane Kellogg, Tammy Wooster

Others Present: Campton resident Rebecca Steeves

The meeting opened with a welcome to Rebecca Steeves who came to sit in on the meeting, and introductions from the group.

1. **April Minutes:** Jane made a motion to approve the April meeting minutes. Alisoun seconded the motion and all were in favor.

2. New Building Access/Procedures:

We are still working out the details of acquiring building access and occupying new building space. Our meeting's start was delayed because we couldn't access the meeting room and we had to wait for Marsh Morgan to come and unlock the door for us.

Jane said that Ann Marie told her that we could potentially use some of the space in the recessed cabinet in the foyer to display some of the CCC materials. Ann Marie also thought that the closet in the meeting room might be a good spot for our filing cabinet. More time is needed for the Select Board to settle in before we move our materials in.

3. Miscellaneous Old Business:

a. Adopt a Highway Cleanup:

Jess, Alisoun and Tammy filled about 10 trash bags on April 21st, as part of the annual spring cleanup of our adopted stretch of road. We were pleasantly surprised to find a note posted at the parking area from Emily and Randy Kelley, notifying us that they had already cleaned up a good stretch of Route 175 all the way down to Dewey Circle. Jess passed around a Thank You note for the group to sign and send to the Kelleys.

There is still a shattered windshield in front of the cemetery on Blair Road that needs to be cleaned up. Tammy will return with a shovel and bucket. Jess noted that when she went to the Ashland DOT shed for supplies, she was told that the shed will be closing and that we will now have to go the Thornton Highway shed to get our bags, vests, and signs.

b. BWNA trails open and clear:

Jules took charge of opening up the BWNA Parking area for the season and Jess

walked the trails with her family and friends George and John Duffy who helped clear trees and pick up trash. Another Thank You note was passed around and signed to be sent to the Duffys.

Jess noted that there is still trash strewn along the Route 3 stretch of BWNA, and she is unsure whether that stretch is still adopted by another group. Jess also restocked the trail head with Nature Guides and confirmed that the sign-in notebook is still there. Additionally, she renumbered some of the cow-tags and noted that a few need replacing. Finally, she asked the group to take a look at a new tip-up tree overhanging the bridge with the new handrail. The tip-up serves as an interesting feature and there is plenty of clearance, but we should confirm that it is not a hazard.

c. Livermore Falls Meeting Recap:

Alisoun attended the Friends of Livermore Falls Public Session on April 30th, and provided the group with a summary. The meeting was attended by about 100 stakeholders and interested citizens. Holderness Select Board member and leader of the group Shelagh Connelly said that The initiative has moved from enforcement to engagement. Plymouth Rotary Club's Dave Moore said that the Friends of the Pemi group is officially a 501c(3) organization, and the Plymouth Rotary has applied to Rotary International for a \$5,000 grant to enhance the Livermore Falls area, but matching funds must be secured before the grant is approved.

NH Fish & Game has agreed to manage the Holderness side of the falls which includes the land, but not the Pumpkinseed Bridge. There is still uncertainty as to who actually owns the bridge. There was talk of charging entrance fees, creating a parking area, and installing grills, picnic tables and sanitation. There was even speculation that the area has potential to be the next State Park.

A DRED representative stated that the two goals are to eliminate the need for police and emergency services, and to make the area a nice place to visit. The obstacles to meeting these goals are revenue and cost control. Looking to the future there will be no alcohol allowed and rules and fines will be forthcoming.

Student Body representatives from PSU and the Holderness School voiced a strong connection to the river and the importance of keeping it open to students and the public. Also noted was that the area is used as part of the Environmental Science curriculum. The PRHS Environmental Studies teacher expressed an interest in being involved.

Alisoun said that she came away from the meeting with a concern that the Campton side of the river is not being adequately addressed, and that if management efforts are only focused on the Holderness side, that problems will surely migrate to the Campton side. When asked who else attended from Campton, Alisoun said that there was one Campton Police officer present, but was unsure if there were Select Board or Historical Society attendees.

Alisoun wondered what can be done to mobilize Campton folks and to emphasize the historic and environmental significance of the Campton side.

She mentioned that Tink Taylor provided a historic write-up of Livermore Falls and that in the write-up, a 1978 report by the Livermore Falls Gorge Study Commission was referenced. Jane said that she would contact Tink Taylor and ask for a copy of the report. Jane added that the historic significance of the area should be of concern to the CHS and that one of the Rotary members is also on the CHS and lives in Campton.

Jess proposed writing a letter on behalf of all of the Campton stakeholders requesting that the Campton side of the river be given equal attention and resources. Jane suggested that perhaps Jim Aguiar would be willing to lead this effort as a person who is skilled at coordinating different groups. Jess said she would speak to Jim about it. Finally, Alisoun suggested that it might be worthwhile to see if there have been any rare species documented for the area.

d. Conservation Matters Column update:

Jess reported that there has been no progress made since she last e-mailed details of the Conservation Matters Column project to contributing CC's. Jess will now contact Brendan Berube from the Record Enterprise and take the lead on finalizing column specifics, since others have submitted no input other than a willingness to be on board. Campton will submit the first column, and Jess will delegate the remaining column assignments. Jess said that she still hasn't connected with Nori Parr from Rumney, and Jane will get alternative contact info. to her.

e. Nature Nights progress:

There has been no word from the Rey Center about the Nature Nights program progress, but the group recognized that we have no designated mail area in the new office, and that we may well have received something from them. Jane will contact Ann Marie and ask about securing an office key and also ask where CCC mail is being stored. If nothing has been received by the Rey Center, Tammy will send an e-mail to Audrey Eisenhauer and Leigh Ann Reynolds if they need anything from us, and where they are at in the planning process. Jess made a motion to mobilize funds from the Conservation Fund to support the Nature Nights program when the request for funding comes in. Jane seconded the motion and all were in favor.

d. Water Conference Recap:

Tammy attended the NH DES Source water Protection conference at the expense of her employer. She attended a session on arsenic in drinking water and learned

that the CDC is developing a national tracking system to assess health impacts and arsenic presence in wells. There has been pressure on the EPA to lower the arsenic standard since adverse health effects have been observed at levels lower than the current standard.

She also attended a session on the findings of the Water Sustainability Commission established under Gov. Lynch. The report includes goals and recommendations to ensure good quality water for future generations. A key finding is a serious need for public education so that the people of NH will be engaged and careful consumers of our water resources. Another need identified is approx. 3 billion dollars to replace and rebuild the state's water infrastructure. Since 80% of water pollution comes from storm water and waste water, this need becomes more critical as we experience more frequent and severe storm events. Finally, Tammy learned about the recent 236 million dollar settlement the State of NH was awarded from the Exxon/Mobil MBTE contamination suit. There was great excitement at the conference about this potential huge financial boost for NH's water protection efforts, but it was emphasized that this litigation will likely be tied up for years throughout the appeal process.

4) New Business/FYI:

Jane reported that PRLAC has completed the Pemi River Management Plan update and that this year the report will be available online and in CD and written form. Jane will be attending the July 2nd Planning Board meeting along with Tara Bamford from the North Country Council to share the report and discuss what towns can do to better protect the river. Jane suggested that others from the CC attend if possible.

Jane also reported that things are heating up around the Northern Pass project again as the permitting process continues. There has been concern by the opposition that Northern Pass may be targeting the headwaters of the Connecticut Lakes region as a new route. Using these public lands would violate the terms of the easement and anger a great deal of people. Tammy said that she read that Governor Hassan made a new DRED appointment that some feel is political since this person had formerly voiced support for the Northern Pass project. DRED holds the easement in question and could interpret its terms differently. Jane said that although we formally opposed the NP project as a commission, we could all continue to write letters and sign petitions as individuals. She will forward a link to us all which contains an online petition relative to the White Mountain National Forest permit. Finally, Tammy mentioned that after posting National Prescription Drug Take Back Initiative flyer at the dump, she saw one at the Campton Cupboard listing the Campton PD as a drop-off site. Alisoun said that she participated in the program.

At this point, Rebecca Steeves excused herself from the meeting and said that she has a commitment on the date of our June meeting but will try to come in July and will be in touch. The group thanked her for coming.

The end of the meeting was reserved for some Friends of the CCC list compiling and

other computer tasks requiring online access. We were unable to connect to the internet and there seems to be some confusion about how to do so. Jane will follow up with Ann Marie about this. Since we didn't need internet to work on a Friends list, Jane and Tammy gave Jess their lists of names which Jess entered into a spreadsheet to be forwarded to Beverly Chappell.

Meeting adjourned 9:10pm,
Next meeting: June 12,2013;7:30pm
(Alisoun will chair)